

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 3-8 of the Specification with the following paragraph. A marked-up version of this replacement paragraph, showing the insertions, is attached as Exhibit A.

The paragraph at page 4, lines 8-10 of the Specification

The next step, shown in Block B, which is optional, is to coat the conductive substrate 10 with a metal underlayer 12 such as nickel. The underlayer 12 can have a thickness from 0 to about 5 μm . A suitable nickel underlayer can be electrodeposited using the following bath composition:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked up version of the amended paragraph is provided in Exhibit A.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently under examination in this application. Claims 7-10 stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-6 are currently under examination and stand rejected. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the withdrawn claims in continuing applications.

No claim amendments are requested. The paragraph of the Specification at page 4, lines 3-8 is amended at line 3 to add the recitation "shown in Block B," after the phrase "the next step,". This additional recitation is supported by FIG. 2 as filed.

The drawings are amended as follows. FIG. 2 is amended to remove the reference sign "D" and its associated Box reciting "SURFACE DOPE". A corrected version of FIG. 2 is filed herewith. FIG. 7 is amended to remove the reference signs "a", "b", and "c" depicted in FIGS. 7A-7B respectively. Corrected versions of FIGS. 7A-7B are filed herewith. These amendments to the Figures correct obvious errors where correction is easily recognized by one of skill in the art. MPEP § 2163.07(II). Since all the amendments are supported by the application as filed, there is no issue of new matter.

I. THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 184(p)(5) because they contain certain reference signs allegedly not recited in the specification. FIG. 2 stands objected to on the grounds that the references signs "B" and "D" are not mentioned in the Specification. In response, Applicant has amended the specification page 4, lines 8-10 to